



## Linn County FSA Office

121 Pershing Rd.  
Brookfield, Mo. 64628

660-258-7265 phone  
660-258-3257 fax

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## January 2012

**County Office Staff**  
Greg Smith  
County Executive  
Director

Jared Weydert  
Farm Loan Manager

Susan McLain  
Caroline Frizzell  
Program Technicians

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jared Kehr! Jared was elected to represent farmers from Clay, Jackson, Jefferson, and Parsons Creek townships on the county committee. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Jared Kehr — Elected to the county committee (COC),

Harold Van Dyke — 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members held their organizational meeting after the election and determined the county chairman to be James Pfeiff and Vicky Ervie to be vice-chairman.

### 2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

### SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses has begun and runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010.

SURE is available to eligible producers:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- That carry FCIC or NAP insurance on all crops of economic significance.

### CRP TRANSITION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

**(TIP)** Retired or retiring land owners or operators are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) which provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. Enrollment in CRP-TIP is on a continuous basis. Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and retiring CRP participants may enroll in CRP-TIP beginning one year before the expiration date of a CRP contract. For example, if a CRP contract is scheduled

to expire on Sept. 30, 2012, the expiring CRP land may be enrolled and approved subject to funds available for CRP-TIP beginning Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2012. The CRP-TIP application must be submitted prior to implementing the qualifying long term lease agreement or sale of the effected lands. The CRP-TIP application may not be approved after the CRP contract has expired (September 30 of the last year of the CRP contract). To be eligible, CRP-TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:



- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements in accordance with a conservation plan of operation.

Please contact the local administrating FSA office for more information.

#### **FARM LOAN PROGRAMS**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan,

for loans obligated after October 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

#### **LDPS FOR UNSHORN LAMB PELTS**

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or in which they have an interest. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

#### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount not to exceed \$250,000. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any

site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

For more information about FSFL, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **COMMODITY LOANS**

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

### **MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF LOANED GRAIN**

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

### **UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF GRAIN**

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the

county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. Financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

**FSA SIGNATURE POLICY** Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

**LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED** FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **USDA CHANGES CROP REPORTING DATES**

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FOR 2012 PRODUCERS NEED TO REMEMBER TO REPORT WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY BY JUNE 30, 2012. ALL OTHER CROPS MUST BE REPORTED BY JULY 15, 2012.

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### **FSA ADOPTING GovDELIVERY**

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

### **Reminder**

Producers may sign up to receive E-mail and/or cell phone text message updates directly from the office. Stop in and give us your information to begin.

### **Dates to Remember**

January 23	2012 DCP Enrollment begins
January 30	Signup ends for LFP, LIP and ELAP
January 31	Deadline to apply for Unshorn Lamb Pelts Loan Deficiency Payment

### **Selected Interest Rates for December 2011**

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr.	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr.	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%